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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,699	09/19/2003	Liang-Jie Zhang	SOM920030006US1	6039
59559 7590 04/05/2007 RYAN, MASON & LEWIS, LLP 90 FOREST AVENUE LOCUST VALLEY, NY 11560			EXAMINER PARK, JEONG S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2109	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/665,699	Applicant(s) ZHANG ET AL.	
	Examiner Jeong S. Park	Art Unit 2109	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2, 3, 14, 20, 21, and 30 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 2, line 1, the word "a link" should be corrected as –the one or more links-- for clear understanding of the claim;

In claim 3, line 1, the word "a link" should be corrected as –the one or more links-- for clear understanding of the claim;

In claim 14, line 3, the phrase "collaborating entities" should be corrected as –the collaborating entities-- for clear understanding of the claim;

In claim 14, line 4, the phrase "organizational data entities" should be corrected as –the organizational data entities-- for clear understanding of the claim;

In claim 20, line 1, the word "a link" should be corrected as –the one or more links-- for clear understanding of the claim;

In claim 21, line 1, the word "a link" should be corrected as –the one or more links-- for clear understanding of the claim; and

In claim 30, line 10, the phrase "annotation data" should be corrected as –the annotation data-- for clear understanding of the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-18 and 29-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Independent claims 1 and 36 are drawn towards a method for obtaining annotation data and transmitting the annotation data to one other entity. This can be just an abstract idea. In order for an abstract claim to be statutory, it must result in useful, concrete, and tangible results. The final result achieved by the claimed invention does not produce any tangible result.

Claims 2-18, which are dependent on claim 1, do not add any tangible results to the claim and thus are rejected for the same.

Claim 29 is drawn towards machine readable medium containing programs implementing the steps of obtaining annotation data and transmitting the annotation data to one other entity. The machine readable medium is not in one of the statutory categories. The specification provides no explicit and deliberate definition of the computer readable medium. Also this can be just an abstract idea. In order for an abstract claim to be statutory, it must result in useful, concrete, and tangible results. The final result achieved by the claimed invention does not produce any tangible result.

Independent claim 30 is drawn towards an apparatus comprising an annotation data generation tool for generating annotation data, a collaborative directory for storing the generated annotation data and an annotation data manager for managing the annotation data. This can be just an abstract idea. In order for an abstract claim to be statutory, it must result in useful, concrete, and tangible results. The final result

achieved by the claimed invention does not produce any tangible result because the annotation data, which is the final result, is not stored or displayed anywhere.

Claims 31-34, which are dependent on claim 30, do not add any tangible results to the claim and thus are rejected for the same.

Claim 35 is drawn towards a method comprising the steps of deploying, defining, creating, selecting, customizing, and generating one set of activities. This can be just an abstract idea. In order for an abstract claim to be statutory, it must result in useful, concrete, and tangible results. The final result of generating the one set of activities achieved by the claimed invention does not produce any tangible result.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5, 9-14, and 16-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (hereinafter Johnson)(U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0023679 A1).

Regarding claims 1, 29, and 36, Johnson teaches as follows:

A method or an article of manufacture for use by at least one entity (client workstation: originator, reference character 50 in figure 2) in participating in a

collaborative information exchange with at least one other entity (client workstation: receiver, reference character 52 in figure 2) (collaboration between networked computer users, see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0018]);

The method comprising the steps of obtaining annotation data, wherein the annotation data is interpreted as an encoded representation of collaborative content (the originator generates the encoded representation of collaborative content and send it to the receiver via a server, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061], lines 11-18 and figure 7);

The annotation data (encoded representation of collaborative content) comprising one or more links (URL part one and two) to information associated with the collaborative information exchange (the encoded representation of collaborative content consists of URL part one and two, the URL part one and two contain the base document or content identifier, its location on a document repository, and detailed viewing information and encoded annotations, see, e.g., page 6, paragraph [0072], page 7, paragraph [0073] and figure 5); and

Transmitting at least a portion of the annotation data to the at least one other entity such that the at least one other entity may access at least a portion of the information associated with the collaborative information exchange by selecting at least one of the one or more links (once the encoded representation of collaborative content is received by the receiver, the receiver sends it to the server to display by receiver, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0062] and figure 7, step 74-76).

Regarding claims 2 and 20, Johnson teaches that the selection of a link permits the at least one other entity to access the information on a need basis (the receiver sends the encoded representation of collaborative content to server to display it on receiver's station, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0062], lines 1-5).

Regarding claims 3 and 21, Johnson teaches that a link may be selected by the at least one other entity at a time not contemporaneous with the time of receipt of the annotation data (providing non-real time collaboration by posting the encoded representation of collaborative content on message boards, news groups, see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0025]).

Regarding claims 4, 22, and 32, Johnson teaches that the annotation data is schema-less (the server process, reference character 53 in figure 2, receives an encoded representation of the collaborative content as a URL and render the content for presentation on the client workstations with rendering instructions given as part of that URL, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0063], lines 16-21, figure 4 and page 2, paragraph [0023]).

Regarding claims 5 and 23, Johnson teaches that the step of embedding information in a message transferred between the at least one entity and the at least one other entity (rendering instructions, see, e.g., page 6, paragraph [0070], lines 9-13, and encoded annotations, see, e.g., page 7, paragraph [0073], are embedded in the collaborative content).

Regarding claims 9 and 24, Johnson teaches that messages exchanged are governed by one or more message exchange patterns (see, e.g., page 5 paragraph [0061] and figure 7).

Regarding claim 10, Johnson teaches that one or more message exchange patterns comprise at least one of a construct (originator primitive and recipient primitive) and a primitive (originator or recipient)(see, e.g., page 5 paragraph [0061] and figure 7).

Regarding claim 11, Johnson teaches that the one or more message exchange patterns control at least one of non-structural and non-deterministic information exchange flow (collaboration between networked computer users does not require a dedicated collaboration application on the user's computer system, see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0018] and the server process renders the content for presentation on the client workstations with rendering instructions given as part of that URL, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0063], lines 16-21 and page 2, paragraph [0023]).

Regarding claims 12 and 25, Johnson teaches that the obtaining step further comprises retrieving the annotation data from storage (the encoded collaborative content contains URL referencing the base document which is stored in a persistent base document storage, reference character 55 in figure 2, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0059], lines 10-12 and page 6, paragraph [0072], lines 11-12).

Regarding claims 13 and 26, Johnson teaches that the obtaining step further comprises generating the annotation data (the originator generates the encoded representation of collaborative content, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061], lines 11-18 and figure 7, step 71).

Regarding claims 14 and 27, Johnson teaches the annotation data comprises one or more of (i) an indication of organizational data entities; (ii) a specification of collaborating entities; (iii) a specification of content type pertinent to collaborating entities (iv) a specification of access control information; (v) a specification of dependency information for organizational data entities; and (vi) a specification of a type of business construct defining collaboration activity (the encoded representation of collaborative content comprises of rendering instructions as part of URL which is the same as the specification of content type pertinent to collaborating entities, see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0023]).

Regarding claims 16, 17, and 28, Johnson teaches that the collaborative information exchange is performed in accordance with a design collaboration application and at least one collaborating entity (originator, 50 in figure 2) communicates with the design collaboration application (network collaboration system is utilized in the drawing process between the originator and the recipient, see, e.g., page 6, paragraph [0069] and figure 6).

Regarding claim 18, Johnson teaches modifying at least one of the annotation data and organizational data, based on changes in at least one of project, task and people assignments (see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0022]).

Regarding claim 19, Johnson teaches as follows:

An apparatus for use by at least one entity (client workstation: originator, reference character 50 in figure 2) in participating in a collaborative information exchange with at least one other entity (client workstation: receiver, reference character

Art Unit: 2109

52 in figure 2) (collaboration between networked computer users, see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0018]);

The apparatus comprising a memory (reference character 16 in figure 1) and at least one processor (reference character 14 in figure 1) coupled to the memory operative (see, e.g., page 3, paragraph [0029], lines 1-5 and figure 1);

To obtain annotation data, wherein the annotation data is interpreted as an encoded representation of collaborative content (the originator generates the encoded representation of collaborative content and send it to the receiver via a server, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061], lines 11-18 and figure 7);

The annotation data (encoded representation of collaborative content) comprising one or more links (URL part one and two) to information associated with the collaborative information exchange (the encoded representation of collaborative content consists of URL part one and two, the URL part one and two contain the base document or content identifier, its location on a document repository, and detailed viewing information and encoded annotations, see, e.g., page 6, paragraph [0072], page 7, paragraph [0073] and figure 5); and

To transmit at least a portion of the annotation data to the at least one other entity such that the at least one other entity may access at least a portion of the information associated with the collaborative information exchange by selecting at least one of the one or more links (once the encoded representation of collaborative content is received by the receiver, the receiver sends it to the server to display by receiver, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0062] and figure 7, step 74-76).

Regarding claim 30, Johnson teaches an apparatus comprising:

An annotation data generation tool for generating annotation data (originator generates the collaborative content, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061], lines 1-5);

A collaborative directory coupled to the annotation data generation tool for storing the generated annotation data (persistent base document storage, reference character 55 in figure 2, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0059]); and

An annotation data manager (server process, reference character 53 in figure 2) coupled to the collaborative directory for managing the annotation data (see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0026] and figure 2).

Regarding claim 31, Johnson teaches the annotation data manager is responsive to a collaboration pattern, the collaboration pattern representing iterative actions that may occur between the one entity and the at least one other entity (see, e.g., page 2, paragraph [0026], figure 2 and page 5, paragraph [0061], figure 7).

Regarding claim 33, Johnson teaches a web-based interface for use in participating in the collaborative information exchange (see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0063] and figure 4).

Regarding claim 34, Johnson teaches the collaborative directory serves as a hub for managing collaborative resources of multiple organizations that use the hub as a central place to perform business collaboration (server and persistent base document storage together serve as a hub for managing collaborative resources, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0059] and page 2, paragraph [0026]).

Regarding claim 35, Johnson teaches as follows:

Deploying at least one on-demand business collaboration (the receiver sends the encoded representation of collaborative content to server to display it on receiver's station, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0062], lines 1-5) hyperchain-based management apparatus for use in one or more of;

Defining at least one business collaboration process template (see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061]);

Creating at least one set of data constructs (originator and recipient, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061]); and

Selecting at least one other collaborating entity for information exchange capable of acting on at least one set of business constructs (selecting recipient, see, e.g., page 5, paragraph [0061]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6-8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (hereinafter Johnson)(U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0023679 A1) in view of Atkins et al. (hereinafter Atkins)(U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0097410 A1).

Regarding claims 6-8, Johnson discloses the embedded information in a message (rendering instructions, see, e.g., page 6, paragraph [0070], lines 9-13, and

Art Unit: 2109

encoded annotations, see, e.g., page 7, paragraph [0073], are embedded in the collaborative content) as explained above except for a status tracking function of the embedded information to cause notification in the form of an alert type.

Atkins discloses as follows:

A system provides an online service for facilitating collaboration among several individuals across a data network (see, e.g., page 3, paragraph [0034], lines 1-3 and figure 3);

A status tracking function for the collaborative information (shared collection of objects)(network service site, reference character 320 in figure 3, tracks changes or comments made to the shared collection of objects, see, e.g., page 3, paragraph [0038], lines 1-5);

A portion of the embedded information is employed to cause notification of one or more entities (the other collaborators) about a status of an action (the network service site dispatches update notifications to the other collaborators, see, e.g., page 3, paragraph [0038], lines 1-5); and

The notification is in the form of an alert type (forming of an alert type is inherent when sending notification message to the others via the asynchronous messaging channel, see, e.g., page 3, paragraph [0038], lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Johnson to include providing notifications to the other collaborators for any change or comment made to the shared collection of objects as taught by Atkins

Art Unit: 2109

in order to update the shared message (the shared collection of objects) quickly and promptly between the at least one entity and the at least one other entity (collaborators).

Regarding claim 15, Johnson discloses all the limitations of claim as explained above except for determining an individual or an authority to be notified.

Atkins discloses that the repository, reference character 320 in figure 3, sends asynchronous messages including the URL to the collaborating clients, 330 in figure 3, notifying them of the new updates contributed to the objects (see, e.g., page 7, paragraph [0073], lines 19-26).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Johnson to include sending notifications to the determined individual or authority as taught by Atkins in order to update the shared message quickly and promptly between collaborators.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeong S. Park whose telephone number is 571-270-1597. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30 - 5:00 EST.

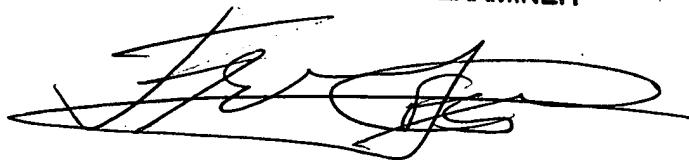
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Jules can be reached on 571-272--6681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2109

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JSP
March 27, 2007

FRANTZ JULES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frantz Jules', is written over a horizontal line.